

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Budget Session on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. with the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees and the Mitchell and Yancey County Boards of Commissioners at Mayland Community College, Spruce Pine, N.C.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Susan Pittman Vice-Chair; Phyllis Forbes and Dan South.
Members Absent: Scott Heath

Others Present: Mayland Community College Board of Trustees; Mitchell County Board of Commissioners, Finance Officer and County Manager; Yancey County Board of Commissioners, Finance Officer and County Manager; Dr. Suzanne Owens, President Mayland Community College; the Press.

Ronnie Kates, Chairman of Mayland Community College Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Kates stated that Mayland Community College has had tremendous growth in the past few years. Mr. Kates said he believed this was due to the excellent administrative team, excellent faculty and the excellent support staff.

Dr. Suzanne Owens introduced three students that are currently attending Mayland Community College that represents the student body. Dr. Owens stated there are a large number of dislocated workers from businesses closing that were attending Mayland Community College and there are a large number of students that take Mayland courses while in high school.

Connie Silvers, former Herndon employee and now Mayland Community College employee, spoke regarding her experiences with Mayland Community College. Ms. Silvers stated that she had worked at Henredon Furniture for 19 years and then lost her job when Henredon closed. Ms. Silvers said the staff at Mayland encouraged her to come to school and she obtained her Associates degree in Human Services and is now employed by Mayland Community College as a Basic Skills Instructor.

Jennifer Robinson, student at Mayland Community College commented on how Mayland Community College had changed her life.

Kevin Ledford, student at Mayland Community College spoke about the opportunity that Mayland Community College gave him to attend college classes while still in high school.

Dr. Suzanne Owens, President of Mayland Community College gave a power point presentation on Mayland Community College's budget request for the Fiscal Year 2008/2009. Dr. Owens stated that Mayland Community College had served over 40,000 students since the year 2000. Dr. Owens advised that the total Proposed Capital Budget for 2008/2009 is \$2,527,500 with each of the three counties (Avery, Mitchell, Yancey) appropriating \$842,500. The Proposed Expense Budget is \$330,000 for each of the three counties (Avery, Mitchell, Yancey). Dr. Owens explained some of the Campus improvements, Renovations and Equipment that was needed for the college. Dr. Owens also stressed the need for a security system and a security officer hired through the Avery County Sheriff's Department. Dr. Owens commented on the need for Mayland Community College to be prepared for future land purchases that may become available. Dr. Owens stated that Mayland was looking into the possibility of obtaining ownership and restoration of the old Avery Correctional Facility.

Chairman Kenny Poteat questioned if the \$330,000 included Current and Capital. Dr. Owens stated the \$330,000 was only the Current and they are asking for additional monies for Capital.

Sam Ray, member of the Board of Trustees for Mayland Community College stressed the need for money for Mayland Community College. Mr. Ray stated that Mayland Community College ranks 58th out of 58 for local funding of community colleges.

Chairman Poteat asked if Mayland Community College wanted the monies broken down as Capital or Current or just a total and let Mayland decide how to break it down. Dr. Owens stated it would be simpler for the counties to just give one appropriation and Mayland Community College would decide how to break it down.

Robert Wiseman, Avery County Manager, commented that an agreement between the three counties (Avery, Mitchell, Yancey) stated that each county would appropriate an equal amount that being 33 1/3%. Dr. Owens stated that since 1997 there have been equal payments from each county.

Meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

**Kenny Poteat, Chairman
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk

